



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

OCT 12 2011

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Joe Cullen  
Electronics Recycling Services  
2980 Pacific Drive  
Norcross, Georgia 30071

SUBJ: Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI)  
Electronics Recycling Services

Dear Mr. Cullen:

On July 27, 2011, an Environmental Protection Agency RCRA CEI was conducted by the EPA at the Electronics Recycling Services in Norcross, Georgia, to determine the facility's compliance status with RCRA.

Enclosed is the EPA RCRA CEI report which indicates that violations of RCRA were discovered. If you have any questions regarding the inspection, please contact Brooke York, of my staff, by phone at (404) 562-8025 or by email at [york.brooke@epa.gov](mailto:york.brooke@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Lamberth".

Larry Lamberth, Chief  
South Enforcement and Compliance Section  
RCRA and OPA Enforcement and Compliance  
Branch  
RCRA Division

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Renee Hudson Goodley, GAEPD



**United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Region 4, Atlanta, Georgia  
Compliance Evaluation and Inspection Report**

**1. Inspector and Author of Report**

Brooke York  
Environmental Engineer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
(404) 562-8025  
[York.Brooke@epa.gov](mailto:York.Brooke@epa.gov)

**2. Facility Information**

Electronics Recycling Services  
2980 Pacific Drive  
Norcross, Georgia 30071  
EPA ID Number: GAR000050062

**3. Responsible Officials**

Joe Cullen, Electronics Recycling Services  
(623)207-5304

**4. Inspection Participants**

Brooke York, Environmental Engineer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Christina Carroll, Engineering Technician, EPA  
Randy Jackson, Environmental Engineer, EPA  
Jason Poe, Environmental Engineer, EPA  
Joe Cullen, Vice President of Operations, Electronics Recycling Services

**5. Date of Inspection**

July 20, 2011 at approximately 1:45 p.m.

**6. Applicable Regulations**

Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA), 42 U.S.C.A. §§ 6901 to 6992k  
Sections 3005 and 3007 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C.A. §§ 6925 and 6927  
40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Parts 260-270, 273, and 279.

The Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Act, §§ 12-8-60 to 83 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated Chapter 391-3-11 of the Rules of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Act, which adopts and incorporates by reference 40 C.F.R. Parts 260-266, 268 and 270, 273 and 279. Therefore, the citations in this report will be to the Rules found in 40 C.F.R. Parts 260-270, 273 and 279.

7. **Purpose of Inspection**

The purpose of this inspection was to conduct an unannounced compliance evaluation inspection (CEI) to determine whether Electronics Recycling Services is in compliance with the applicable requirements of RCRA and the corresponding Georgia regulations. This was an EPA lead inspection.

8. **Previous Inspection History**

Electronics Recycling Services has not been previously inspected by the EPA.

9. **Facility Description**

Electronics Recycling Services (ERS) is an e-cycler. An e-cycler is a facility that disassembles and/or recovers materials from electronic waste. The ERS, Norcross facility receives e-scrap from numerous consumers and businesses. Upon arrival e-scrap is processed, sorted, disassembled and prepared for remarket or recycle. ERS employs approximately 17 people at the Norcross location. ERS operates one shift five days a week. ERS notified as JJS Developments Co LLC Electronic Recy not a generator of hazardous waste but a large quantity handler of universal waste on July 13, 2007. At this time the facility was assigned the EPA Id number of GAR 000 050 062.

10. **Findings**

10.1. **Facility Walk Through**

The EPA inspectors arrived at the facility at approximately 1:45 p.m. The inspectors presented their credentials to Sharon Akmali, Electronics Recycling Services, Executive Director. The inspectors explained the purpose of their visit.

When the material arrives at the facility it is staged for processing. The first step of processing for much of the e-scrap is the separation station. The separation station is used to separate different components of the e-scrap. The different components are placed in different bins and containers. On a table in the separation station several bins marked universal waste were noted. The employee at this station was actively adding material to these bins while separating components. As these bins became full the employee would place the contents into larger Gaylord boxes for storage. Some of the components that were being separated included toner, printer cartridges and a variety of batteries. None of the Gaylord boxes were found closed, labeled or dated.

ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.18 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. § 273.33(a)(1)), which requires large quantity handlers of universal waste batteries to store them in a container that is closed.

ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.18 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. § 273.35(c)), which requires large quantity handlers of universal waste to demonstrate the length of time that the universal waste has been accumulated.

**ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.18 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. 273.34(a)), which requires containers holding universal waste batteries to be marked with the words "Universal Waste-Battery(ies)" or "Waste Battery(ies)" or "Used Battery(ies)".**

**ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.08 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. §262.11), for failing to make a hazardous waste determination either by generator knowledge or analytical testing on ink and toner cartridges that potentially contain ink or toner which contains hazardous constituents.**

When facility personnel were questioned about where spent bulbs were stored the inspectors were directed to a bulb crusher. The bulb crusher can be seen in Figures 4 and 5. An employee of ERS demonstrated how the bulb crusher worked. The bulb was placed in the top of the machine and as the bulb goes into the machine the bulb is crushed. The material from the bulb is expelled into a plastic bag as seen in Figure 6. The bulb crusher also possessed a filter to absorb the possibly airborne particles. When questioned about records on the waste generated by the bulb crusher the facility could produce nothing except the receipt for purchase. When the facility was asked about a waste determination on the material in the bag or the filter in the machine neither could be produced.

**ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.08 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. § 262.11), for failing to make a hazardous waste determination on solid waste produced by the facility.**

#### **10.2. Records Review**

After the facility walk through the inspectors asked to review the past three years of records for the CRTs, toner and ink cartridges, batteries, and waste records related to the bulb crusher. The facility did not make available the records relating to any of the items.

**ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.18 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. § 273.39), which requires a large quantity handler of universal waste to keep records relating to incoming and outgoing shipments for at least three years.**

Ms. Akmal indicated that some of the e-scrap was sent to Canada to the company's headquarters. Ms. Akmal would not make available any records regarding ERS's export activities.

**ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.18 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. § 262.53 as referenced by 40 C.F.R. § 273.40), which requires large quantity handlers of universal waste to notify the EPA of intended export before the export is scheduled to leave the United States.**

**ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.18 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. § 262.56 as referenced by 40 C.F.R. § 273.40), which requires large quantity handlers of universal waste to file with the Administrator each year a report summarizing the types, quantities, frequency, and ultimate destination of all hazardous waste exported during the previous calendar year.**

**ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.18 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. § 262.57 as referenced by 40 C.F.R. § 273.40), which requires large quantity handlers of universal waste keep records of notification of intent to export, EPA Acknowledgement of Consent, confirmation of delivery, and annual reports for three years.**


#### **11. Conclusion**

Based on the CEI conducted July 27, 2011, at ERS in Norcross, Georgia, the following apparent violations were observed:

1. ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.18 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. § 273.33(a)(1)), for failing to close containers housing universal waste batteries.
2. ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.18 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. § 273.35(c)), for failing to date containers housing universal waste.
3. ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.18 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. 273.34(a)), for failing to label containers holding universal waste batteries with the words "Universal Waste-Battery(ies)" or "Waste Battery(ies)" or "Used Battery(ies)".
4. ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.08 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. §262.11), for failing to make a hazardous waste determination either by generator knowledge or analytical testing on ink and toner cartridges that potentially contain ink or toner which contains hazardous constituents.
5. ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.08 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. § 262.11), for failing to make a hazardous waste determination on solid waste produced by the facility in the bulb crusher.
6. ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.18 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. § 273.39), for failing to maintain records relating to incoming and outgoing shipments of universal waste for at least three years.
7. ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.18 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. § 262.53 as referenced by 40 C.F.R. § 273.40), for failing to notify the EPA of intended export before the export is scheduled to leave the United States.


8. ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.18 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. § 262.56 as referenced by 40 C.F.R. § 273.40), for failing to file with the Administrator each year a report summarizing the types, quantities, frequency, and ultimate destination of all hazardous waste exported during the previous calendar year.
9. ERS was in apparent violation of Chapter 391-3-11-.18 of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Rules (40 C.F.R. § 262.57 as referenced by 40 C.F.R. § 273.40), for failing to keep records of notification of intent to export, EPA Acknowledgement of Consent, confirmation of delivery, and annual reports for three years.

12. **Signed**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brooke York  
Environmental Engineer  
South Enforcement & Compliance Section  
RCRA and OPA Enforcement and Compliance Branch  
RCRA Division

10/5/2011  
Date

13. **Concurrence**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Lamberth, Chief  
South Enforcement and Compliance Section  
RCRA and OPA Enforcement and Compliance Branch  
RCRA Division

10/12/11  
Date

**Attachment 1**  
Photographs taken July 27, 2011





**Figure 1: Front Entrance to Electronic Recycling Services**



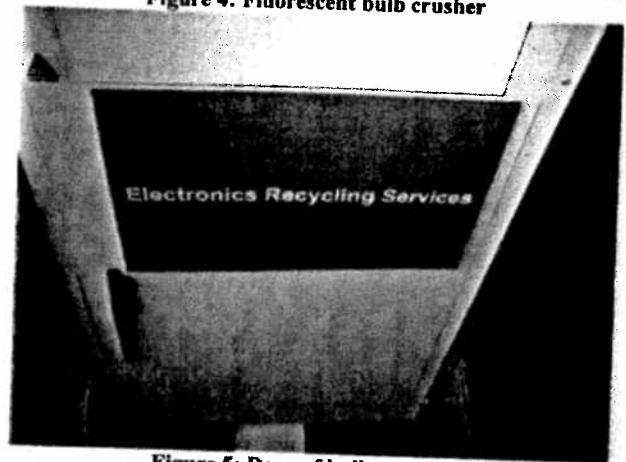
**Figure 2: Spent fluorescent bulbs**



**Figure 3: PCB Capacitor**



**Figure 4: Fluorescent bulb crusher**



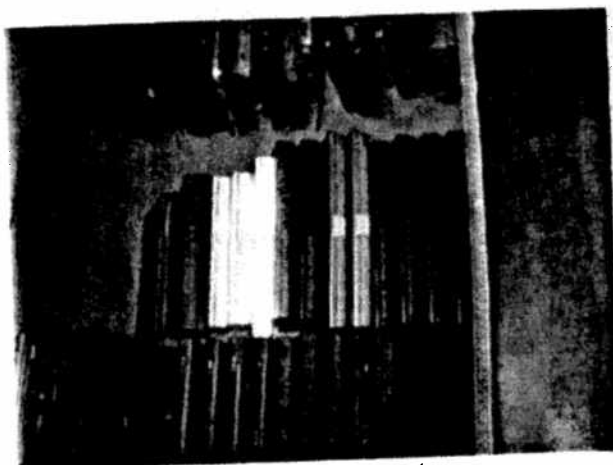
**Figure 5: Door of bulb crusher**



**Figure 6: Inside of bulb crusher**



**Figure 7: Disassembly table**



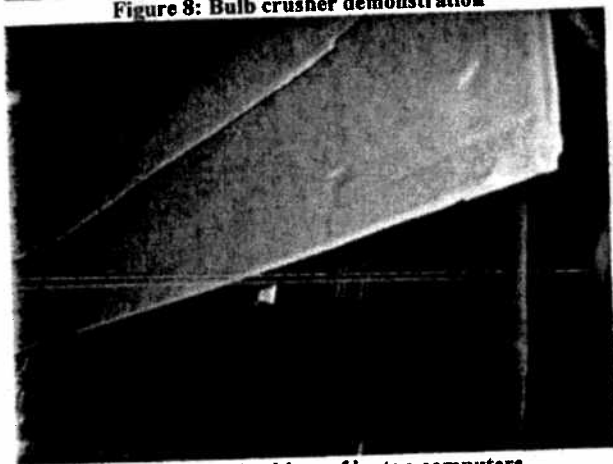
**Figure 10: Laptop computers**



**Figure 8: Bulb crusher demonstration**



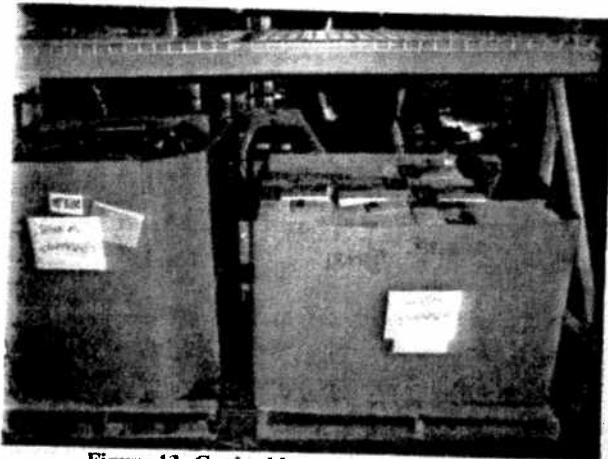
**Figure 11: Laptop computers**



**Figure 9: Gaylord box of laptop computers**



**Figure 12: Gaylord boxes used for sorting electronics**



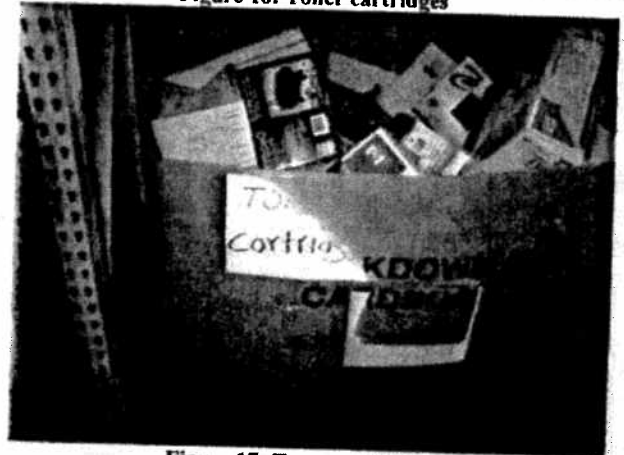
**Figure 13: Gaylord box of toner cartridges**



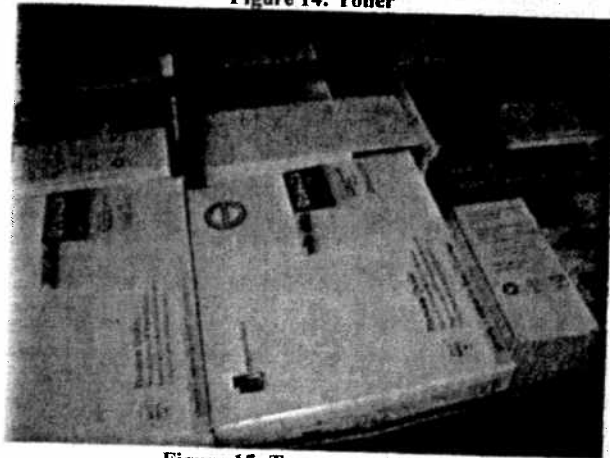
**Figure 16: Toner cartridges**



**Figure 14: Toner**



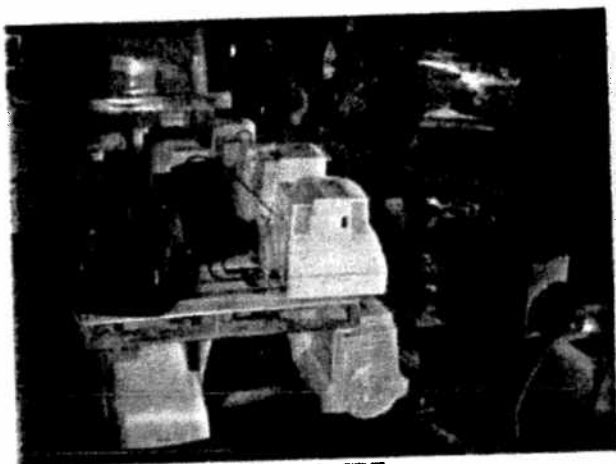
**Figure 17: Toner cartridges**



**Figure 15: Toner cartridges**



**Figure 18: CRTs**



**Figure 19: CRTs**



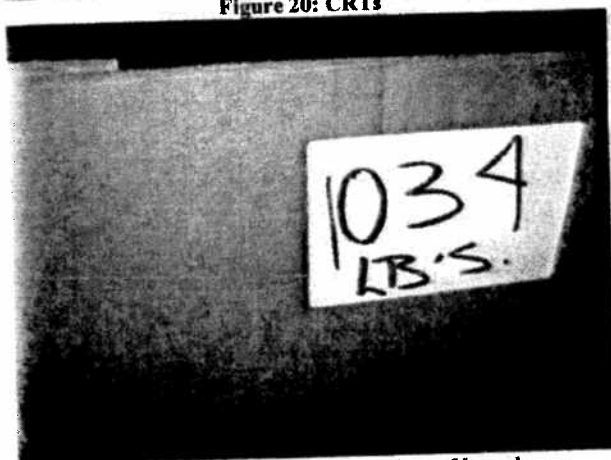
**Figure 22: Small boards**



**Figure 20: CRTs**



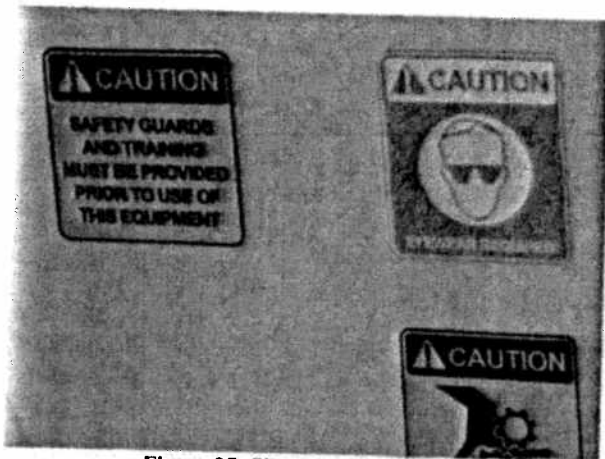
**Figure 23: Shredder**



**Figure 21: Weight on Gaylord box of boards**



**Figure 24: Shredded boards**



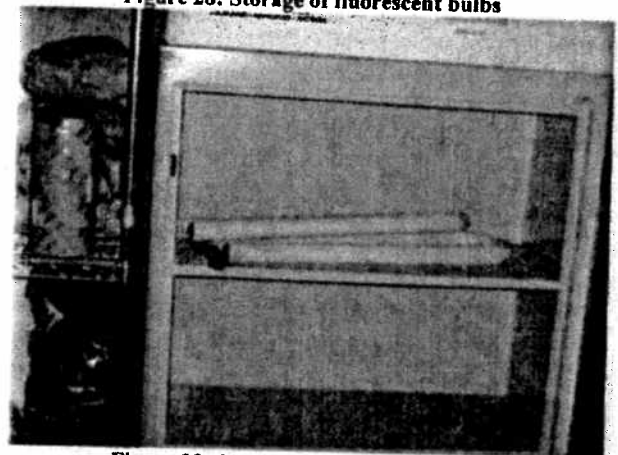
**Figure 25: Signage on shredder**



**Figure 28: Storage of fluorescent bulbs**



**Figure 26: Shredder demonstration**



**Figure 29: Storage of fluorescent bulbs**



**Figure 27: CRTs**



**Figure 30: boxes of spent fluorescent bulbs**





Figure 31: Electronics stored in the storage room in the warehouse



Figure 34: Toner cartridges

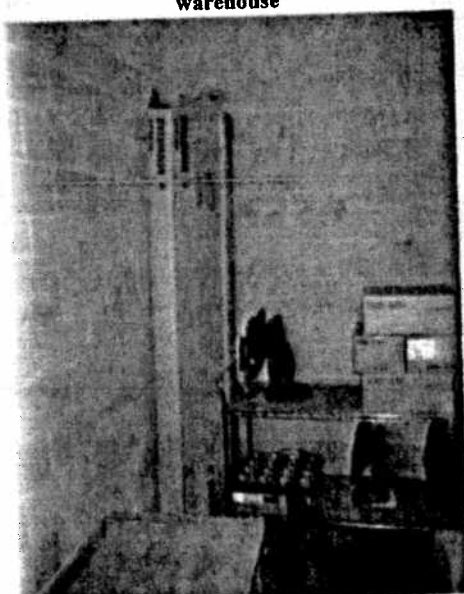


Figure 32: Storage area in the rear of the warehouse

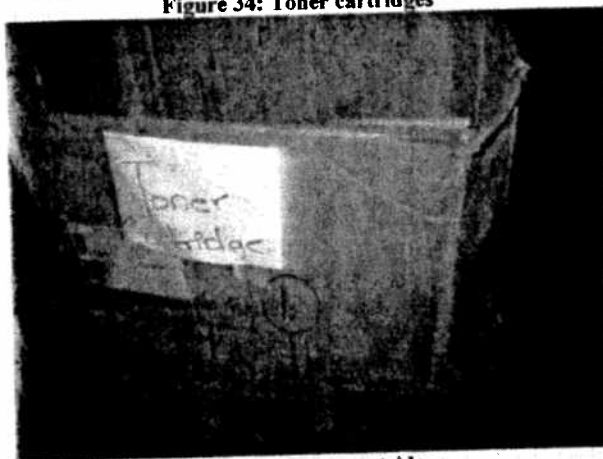


Figure 35: Toner cartridges

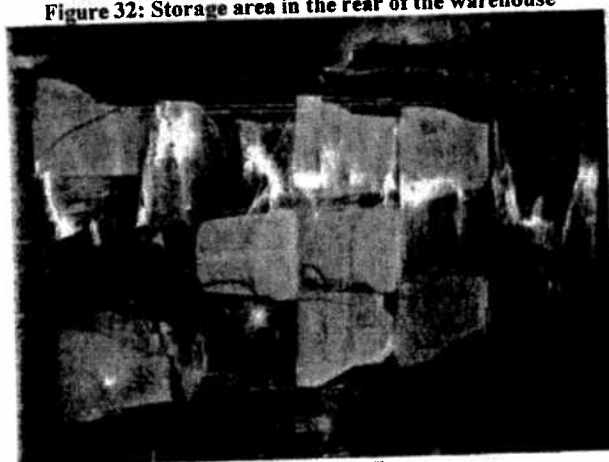


Figure 33: CRTs

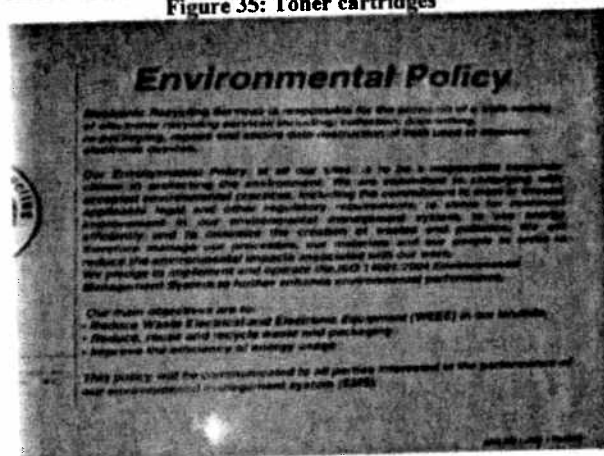


Figure 36: ERS Environmental Policy



**Figure 37: Spent fluorescent bulbs**



**Figure 40: ballasts**



**Figure 38: batteries**



**Figure 39: Lead computer components**





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**Certified No.:** 70091680000201413958

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**Street:** 2980 PACIFIC DRIVE

**City:** NORCROSS **State:** GA **Zip Code:** 30071

**Sender:** YORK, BROOKE **Ext:**

(LastName, FirstName Middle Initial)

**Division:** RCR **Floor:** 10

**Building:** TOWER **Unit:** ROECB

**Alternate:** BIAS, WENDY **Alternate Ext:**

(LastName, FirstName Middle Initial)

**Site Name:** ELECTRONICS RECYCLING SERVICES **Site ID:**



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- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

Joe Cullen  
Electronics Recycling Services  
2980 Pacific Drive  
Norcross, Georgia 30071

2. Article Number  
(Transfer from service label)

PS Form 3811, February 2004

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY**

A. Signature  
x M. Alvarez

B. Received by (Printed Name)

C. Date of Delivery  
10/13/11

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes  
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

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☐ Registered ☒ Return Receipt for Merchandise  
☐ Insured Mail ☐ C.O.D.  
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Domestic Return Receipt

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